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Dr. ADOLF KELLER, *General Secretary for Education & Extension.*

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UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

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NEWS LETTER No. 2.

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING IN PARIS

The Executive Committee of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work met in Paris from February, 18th to 22nd, in the French Protestant House as the guests of the French members of the Council.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the report of the General Secretary for Administration regarding the reorganization of the Social Institute in Geneva in accordance with the votes passed at the meeting of the Council at Chexbres last September, and to consider the reports from the Department of Research and the Department of Education and Extension.

There were twenty-two members present: two from the Eastern Orthodox Section, thirteen from the Continental European Section, five from Great Britain, and two from America. The President of the Council, the Lord Bishop of Winchester, acted as chairman.

One of the Committee's most welcome tasks was to congratulate His Grace the Archbishop of Upsala as winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The Chairman stated that the Archbishop has thus honoured his associates as well as the Life and Work and Church Peace Movements.

The Committee expressed its regret at the absence of Bishop Ammundsen who has been ill for some time. Present reports say that the Bishop is improving and will soon be in his usual health and vigour.

Three strenuous days were devoted to detailed discussions of the organization of the Institute and the work of its three departments.

An interesting service of welcome was arranged by the French Federation of Churches, and Pasteur Bœgner, the president, made a cordial address which was replied to on behalf of the Committee by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ihmels of Saxony. A large number of the French friends of the Movement were present at this formal meeting, where the expressions of friendship and appreciation were most sincere.

The President of the French Republic, Monsieur Doumergue, received at the Elysée Palace a deputation from the Conference, composed of the officers together with Pasteur Bœgner, Bishop Ihmels, and Lord Dickinson, representing the World Alliance.

A very interesting and pleasant evening reception was tendered the delegates through the kindness of Monsieur and Madame Hubert de Monbrison at their home.

A Youth meeting was arranged for Saturday evening, where the principal speakers were the Rev. Henry S. Leiper, Dr. G.F. Barbour, and Dr. Georges Thélin of the International Labour Office.

The Conference closed on Sunday with a large public meeting in the Church of the Oratoire, which was addressed by Lord Dickinson of London; Dr. Martin Dibelius of Heidelberg; Archbishop Germanos, representing the Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; Dr. Henry A. Atkinson; and Prof. Zilka of Prague. The Chairman was Pasteur Bœgner, President of the French Protestant Federation of Churches.

REPORTS

Administration.

In his report as General Administrative Secretary, Dr. Henry A. Atkinson told of the steps taken since the Central Office in London was moved to Geneva and combined with the Institute last September; the unification of the budget; the close collaboration of the three departments of the Institute—Administration, Research, and Education and Extension; and the need for closer definition of the task of education and extension so as to make known and help to make effective the results of the Research Department in the Churches of the various countries. He reported on the experiment of the first number of the News-Letter issued in January in three languages, and of the encouraging responses received; and on the informal cooperation with the Research Department of the International Missionary Council. He also raised the question of the relations of the various commissions to the Institute, and the need for closer collaboration of these various commissions with the centre in Geneva; and finally emphasized the necessity of the various Sections meeting their finance pledges promptly, so that the work of the Institute in Geneva may be carried on in a businesslike way, and the total responsibility of the Universal Council fully met.

Research.

(1) Dr. Schönfeld, Director of the Research Department, reported:

(*a*) The publication in English, French and German of the pamphlet entitled "The Churches and Present-Day Economic Problems" and told of its wide circulation and the good reception it has received everywhere.

Every effort should be made to have study groups, especially among young people studying in the universities and colleges, take the pamphlet as a basis for group discussions. For this purpose the Research Department is preparing a small pamphlet which will contain a detailed list of questions, as well as a plan for systematic study and bibliographical and other hints for further investigation.

(*b*) The preparation for the International Study Conference on Unemployment. The Churches of the various countries have been asked to make preparations for holding a study conference on unemployment in each country. Favourable replies have been received from France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Latvia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.

(*c*) The Research Department has already circulated detailed outlines for the proposed national study conferences to the Churches. The aim was to help the Churches by making definite proposals for the organisation of such conferences, and, by giving a systematic list of questions which an attempt should be made to answer, to get as much homogeneous material for our further work as possible.

The Department is preparing a preliminary study of the situation in some of the countries to assist the Churches in making a fuller investigation in their respective territories.

Also, the Department is preparing:

(*d*) Material for a survey of the distress in the various countries and of the relief action of the Churches in order to make suggestions for the further development of such relief.

(*e*) A report on the Churches and international regulation of non-industrial child labour in connection with the proposed International Labour Convention on this subject, to be discussed by the International Labour Conference of the Labour Office next June.

(*f*) A study of the theological problems involved in the research work. Such studies may help to lay the foundations for international Christian cooperation in social research, and clear up misunderstandings between theological leaders in the various countries.

(*g*) A study on the question of the relationship of the Churches with employers and employees.

In speaking of the relationship of the Research Department to the total work of the Institute, to the Council and to the Commissions, Dr. Schönfeld made some very practical suggestions. He feels, as do others, that there is an anomaly in having a centralized,

highly-developed Institute with the responsibility of carrying out the purposes of the Universal Christian Council, and then having Commissions with an independent status and with the responsibility of doing the very thing that the Institute is trying to do. What is needed is a clearer definition of the work of the Standing Commissions and Committees of the Council in their relationships to the work of the Research Department in particular. The effectiveness of all the work being done by both the Research Department and the Commissions themselves will be considerably increased if some method of fuller cooperation can be brought about between these agencies.

(2) A short report on "The Churches and International Regulation of Child Labour in non-industrial Occupations" was prepared in collaboration with Miss Vallette and represented to the Executive Committee by Dr. Schönfeld, in order to find methods of cooperation between the Churches and the Research Department of the Institute with the view to further action. Thus subject will be the theme for an International Convention which is to complete the Conventions already adopted regarding the age of admission of children to employment in industry, agriculture and on board ship.

The non-industrial occupations which will be eventually the subject to international regulation are mainly: commercial undertakings; offices of all kinds; sanatoria and establishments for the treatment of the sick; itinerant occupations (street trading, hawking, etc.); public entertainments, including itinerant performances and fairs.

In a large number of countries child-labour in non-industrial occupations is already regulated by legislative measures. This report includes a general survey of the present regulations in some twenty countries, based on the study which the International Labour Office has made, and the proposals of the proposed International Convention, which will be for the first time discussed at the next International Conference in June 1931. The Conference will draw up an official questionnaire, which will be sent to all States Members and should have lasting influence on the future fate of the Convention. The Research Department has prepared a list of subjects in regard to which the Churches should be able to approach their governments with the view to having these subjects included in the questionnaire. Attention must be drawn to certain aspects of the problem, which are not yet sufficiently considered, which however are of supreme importance for the proposed regulations. These subjects bear upon the close connection between child-labour and the family income, between child-labour and unemployment, and the possibilities and difficulties of the application of international regulations.

Finally, the Churches have the opportunity, when addressing reports to their governments, of influencing the official answers given to the questionnaire. For this purpose, the Research Department suggests that the Churches undertake studies regarding child-labour outside industry in places where special hardship is found, with a view to making public the conditions of such labour, and as far as possible to answering the questions outlined.

The general report, based on the results of the studies as made in the different countries will be drawn up by the Research Department, which, in collaboration with Inter-

national Christian Youth Associations, will submit this report to the International Labour Office.

(3) A report from Mr. Oscar Bauhofer of the Research Department was given on an outline of the special study he is making of the subject: " The Theological Basis of the Work of the Institute and its Relation to the Gospel of Christ. " He asks, " what is the attitude of the Christian mind in face of the social, industrial and economic problems with which we are confronted ? " An answer to this question will be not only the " raison d'être " for the Christian Social Institute, but will mark out the programme for its study and action. The aim of the Institute must clearly be based upon what is in the minds of people who believe in the Christian way of solving the world's problems. If, as Christians, we have nothing in particular to say about the great problems of the world, and if the implications of the Christian Faith for these matters are of no significance for Christians and ultimately for the world at large, we have hardly any justification for our Organization, and certainly we could not label it the " Christian Social Institute. " We cannot possibly want to do research work just for the sake of research, irrespective of the Christian point of view. At first sight it may appear that many problems have no direct ethical or spiritual meaning, but are purely technical and economic. Really, however, they are all of them links in a chain of phenomena that is of great significance ethically and spiritually, and therefore every social problem represents a definite challenge to Christian thought. It is up to the Institute to bring out the deeper implications of such issues, and the responsibilities arising out of them for individual Christians and the Church as a corporate body. Thus, we will attempt to put all the problems which it will become our task to study, in their true setting—that is, with all that is implied and involved in them from the point of view of the Christian order of society. This constitutes a task clearly involving theological principles, and answers the criticism that is often urged that the Church has but one task—to preach the Gospel of Christ—and that the Gospel has no prescription against social and economic evils; that these are worldly concerns and, while the Church would not discourage any worthy endeavors to better conditions, it must keep to the eschatological aspects of the Gospel of Christ which addresses itself to sinful men whatever may be the social conditions in which they live, and urges the divine forgiveness and the salvation of the human soul. The theological conception on which our work is based does not in the least dispute the value of individual salvation, nor dim the eschatological aspects of the Gospel, but what we must attempt to do is to combine with this individual appeal the larger and broader view that Christ came to save the world, and that the work we are doing is not just the outcome of well-meaning but confused thinking, but that in the Gospel itself we have the authority for seeking some responsibility as Churches for the ordering of human society. This is not only in keeping with the great historical traditions of the Church, but is true to the commission received from Christ, and is the will of God.

(4) Our Swedish collaborator, Mr. Ehrenstrom, during his stay in England set on foot an enquiry into the relations between the Churches, employers and employees.

This enquiry will be completed by making a personal approach to important personalities who are seeking, in the course of their practical work, to promote a closer relationship between the Church and industry. Talks will also be arranged with employers, managers and labour representatives. A Report on the results of this enquiry, and of similar enquiries concerning conditions in other countries, will be submitted to the Executive Committee at its next session.

Education and Extension.

Dr. Adolf Keller, reporting for the Department of Education and Extension, told of his visits and lectures to the theological faculties in Germany and before groups in cities in Switzerland, and outlined the programme of his proposed tour in the South of France and to the Balkans. He stressed the need of making the Stockholm Movement more widely known among theologians and laymen in the various countries, with special emphasis on collaboration between the Churches for joint research work from the Christian point of view, in order that the programme of the Church in relation to the social problems of our day may be made more clear. Dr. Keller outlined some of the attitudes which need to be overcome if the work of education is to be effective. Among these obstacles he listed especially the confessional attitude of certain groups within the Church who feel that through emphasis on social tasks there may be created a confusion as to the real purpose for which the Church exists in the world. But he feels that the most serious opposition will be encountered from the growing Anti-Christian propaganda which is now engaged in a decisive battle with Christianity, and is directing its violent attack against the Protestant as well as the Roman Catholic Church. Bolshevism is being strengthened, in Dr. Keller's opinion, by the disintegration of the middle classes and the growing religious indifference and atheistic propaganda among some of the proletariat. In connection with this he has made interesting contacts with labour groups in Switzerland and Germany. In Berlin he attended a meeting of the Evangelical Labour Organization and spoke at a public meeting arranged in the Parliament House. He also had a conference with the Labour Minister who showed much interest in the work of the Institute. He also outlined a course of studies for the group leaders in the various countries on the Stockholm Movement, and reported the action of the Swiss Church Federation in setting up a social commission to arrange for the unemployment conference as suggested by the Research Department. In addition he submitted a plan for a seminar of Social Christianity in Geneva, where the results of research work as well as other aspects of the various International Christian Organizations in Geneva could be brought before groups interested in these movements. The Theological Faculty of the University of Geneva has shown a marked interest in this plan. Finally, he reported that a letter had been sent out to the Protestant and Orthodox theological faculties of the world, signed by the Secretary of the Faith and Order Movement as well as himself, calling upon the authorities in these schools to include in some way a study of the Œcumenical Movements of the Churches as a part of their curriculum.

PRINCIPAL DECISIONS OF THE PARIS MEETING

The Executive Committee approved unanimously the proposals contained in Dr. Schönfeld's report and authorized the Research Department to take action to further the plans outlined.

Dr. Schönfeld was warmly commended for his able service to the Institute in the past and was unanimously elected as Director of the Research Department to serve until the meeting of the Council in 1932.

It was voted to ask Dr. Atkinson to continue as General Secretary for Administration until the meeting of the Council in 1932. He stated, however, that he was unable to accept or to give any answer in regard to this question until after consultation with the Church Peace Union and his associates in America. He was willing to undertake to discuss the matter with his counsellors, and in the meantine felt safe in assuring the Committee that he could continue as at present until the meeting of the Executive in August of this year; and at that time he would be able to give a definite reply in regard to further service. At the same time he strongly urged the Committee to set about looking for someone who could accept the permanent position of General Secretary and give all his time to it. He also pointed out that it was not simply a question of finding a person, but arrangements must be made whereby his salary and his expenses could be provided, not for one year, but for a period of years. For it must be recognised that until the Council and the Institute have full-time secretaries they will not function as they should.

A Committee was empowered to consider ways and means for the Council to provide the necessary funds for the salary of such a Secretary, and to suggest such adjustments as may be included in the budget for 1931-32.

Finance.

It was voted that the Treasurer should be requested to make his report at the end of the current year in such form as to show not only the actual amounts received and expended through the office at Geneva, but in addition to this the amounts contributed in the form of services rendered to the Council by reason of the fact that the Church Peace Union is now paying the salary and expenses of Dr. Atkinson; the Federal Council of Churches is paying the salary and expenses of Dr. Keller; and the Church Peace Union is also paying the salary and expenses of Mr. Steele and Miss Johnson, who is giving a large proportion of her time to this work. The German Church Federation is paying the salary and expenses of Dr. Schönfeld, and the Swedish Church the salary and expenses of Mr. Ehrenström. All of these contributions are to be figured into the total expenditure for the maintenance of the Council and the Institute for the current year.

News Letter.

The News Letter, the first number of which was issued on January 8th, was com mended; and it was voted that the General Secretary for Administration be authorised to continue its publication, in the place of the former Bulletin on the understanding, however, that certain features which had appeared in the Bulletin shall be hereafter put into a section of the review " Stockholm. "

Review " Stockholm ".

It was agreed that " Stockholm " should be continued after this year in some form. Thereafter, if continued, it must be without any financial responsibility to the Council. Arrangements for financing it must be made outside of the budget. It was agreed that a sub-committee composed of the present editorial board, with the addition of Dr. Schönfeld, Bishop Ihmels, Dr. Sandegren and Dr. Atkinson be appointed to study the question of the review " Stockholm " and report to the August meeting of the Council.

Commissions.

It was agreed that the question of the relationship of the Commissions and standing Committees of the Universal Council shall be referred to the Reorganization Committee, and that this Committee be requested to make a full report which can be discussed and action taken at the meeting in Cambridge next August. It is contemplated that with this report the Reorganization Committee will then pass out of existence, and in place of it there will be elected a small management committee to which will be referred all ad interim business.

Dr. Barbour reported on the very interesting Conference of Youth Leaders in the Orthodox Church held in Salonica, and that after paying the expenses of this Conference there was a balance in the hands of the Commission. It was voted that a portion of this balance be used for bringing out a full report of the Conference in the form of a booklet.

Disarmament.

Mr. Leiper, on behalf of the American Section, brought to the attention of the Committee a proposal in reference to possible action that might be taken by the Churches in support of the coming Disarmament Conference in 1932. After discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

> " That this Committee, realising the gravity of the situation in regard to disarmament, urges its constitutent bodies and churches in the various countries, to take effective measures to impress upon their governments and peoples, and in particular upon the Conference in Geneva, the vital necessity of definite and progressive steps in disarmament, if the signatures of the Paris Pact are to be honoured and full effect given to the Covenant of the League of Nations. To this end it appoints certain of its members to cooperate with the World Alliance with a view to such action as may be necessary before the meeting of the Executive Committee in August, and to report progress to that meeting. "

The Cambridge Meeting.

The members of the British Section announced that they had arranged for the next meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at Cambridge in Ridley Hall. It was voted that the meetings begin on August 25th at 2 p. m., and adjournment will be taken on August 29th. The Reorganization Committee will meet at Cambridge on August 22nd, and such other Committees or Commissions will be free to meet on either the 24th or the morning of the 25th. Inasmuch as the meeting at Cambridge is only a meeting of the Executive Committee, it is not possible to arrange meetings of the entire personnel of the various Committees and Commissions, with the exception of the Reorganization Committee and the Finance Committee. Whatever meetings that are held must be arranged by the chairmen of the various Commissions in consultation with the General Administrative Secretary.

AN APPEAL

One of the most pressing needs right now is for us to secure a thousand new subscriptions to the magazine, "Stockholm." By consulting the contents of the current issue as given on the next page of this Letter, you will see what important subjects are being discussed in this magazine. It should be in the library of every theological school and college in the world, as well as on the desk of all ministers and teachers who hope to keep abreast of international social and economic affairs in relation to the churches.

We are enclosing with this News-Letter an order form. Will you fill out the form, sign it and enclose a money order or a check for 10/6 (English) or $2.50 (American) and mail it to our office here in Geneva. We will then send you the magazine for the year 1931 including the last copy which deals with the question of unemployment.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Stockholm.** An international Christian quarterly review of 96 pages, in three languages, on the social activities of the churches. Annual subscription 10/6 or $2.50 from all booksellers. *The Oxford University Press, London,* or *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, U. S. A.*

Summary of Contents of Issue No. 1, 1931.

Christian Sociology and Natural Law.
Alfred E. GARVIE, Principal of Hackney and New College, London.

Vom heutigen Kampf des Wortes Gottes um seine Weltgeltung.
Julius RICHTER, Professor, Berlin.

Is Modern Civilization Materialistic ?
V. A. DEMANT, Director of Research, Christian Social Council, London.

Le Message de Stockholm et les Intellectuels francais.
Wilfred MONOD, Professeur à la Faculté Libre de Théologie Protestante, Paris.

Die kirchlich-ökumenische Aufgabe und ihre theologischen Probleme.
Arthur TITIUS, Professor, Berlin.

Unemployment.
J. E. TUKE, an employer in London.

Unemployment.
Fred Hughes, Editor of "the Socialist Christian", London.

Le chomage.
Charles GIDE, Professeur honoraire au Collège de France.

Zur Arbeitslosigkeit der Jugend.
Fabian Månsson, Mitglied des schwedischen Reichstags, Stockholm.

Die soziale Seite des Kolonialproblems.
Dr Otto SIEGEL, Berlin.

2. **The Churches and the welfare of Seamen.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 3, gratis.

3. **The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 4. Price 6d. a copy or 20 cents. *I. C. F. Book Shop, 4 the Sanctuary, London,* S. W. I. or *the Social Institute, 2 rue de Montchoisy, Geneva.*

4. *Handbook of the Churches.* In three languages, price 3/- and 3.50 Swiss fr. pub. by *the International Christian Press Commission, Berlin-Steglitz, Beymestr.* 8.

5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Continuation Committee, Chexbres, Switzerland, 1930. (With reports of the Commissions on Youth, Press, Churches and Labour, Cooperation, the Theologians' Commission, Reorganisation of the Secretariat. Also the new Constitution and Byelaws of the Council.) English, German and French editions.

All the publications mentioned in this letter may be obtained through the INSTITUTE.